

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 15-20, 22 and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 20 are independent claims. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12-14, and 24-26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 15-20, 22 and 23 are amended. As allowable claims 7 and 20 are merely rewritten in independent form, no new matter is added.

Telephone Interview

A telephone interview was conducted on February 19, 2009 with Examiner Duverne to clarify the structure the Examiner believes to correspond to the claimed “housing”. The Examiner indicated that the rail 1 shown in Fig. 1 is the housing. Applicant’s representative pointed out that the rail 1 does not “enclose” an electrical component.

Allowable Claims

Claims 7 and 20 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As claims 7 and 20 are rewritten in independent form, and the remaining pending claims depend from the allowable claims, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-19 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,629,831 (“Eggert”). As claims 2-6, 9, 10, 12-14 and 24-26 are cancelled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Although not identified in the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Eggert discloses a “housing” at Fig. 12 and that the unidentified housing encloses electrical components 3, 7, 8 11 and 13. However, as at least components 7 and 8 in Fig. 12 are not enclosed in a housing, the allegation in the Office Action is incorrect and fails to make the identification of the alleged “housing” possible.

It is further alleged that the alleged “housing” includes a module location 55 on an exterior surface of the housing. However, as the bus bar 55 is not shown on an exterior surface of a housing (i.e., a structure that encloses electrical components 3, 7, 8 11 and 13) the allegation is incorrect and fails to make the identification of the alleged “housing” possible.

It is further alleged that the plug-in terminal 11 corresponds to the claimed "contact means" and that the plug-in terminal 11 is arranged at the module location (i.e., the bus bar 55). However, as may be seen in Figs. 1 and 12, the plug-in terminal 11 is not arranged at the module location 55 as alleged in the Office Action.

In spite of the numerous inconsistencies in the Office Action and the failure to properly identify structure in Eggert alleged to correspond to the claim features, Applicants have amended the claims to recite only allowable subject matter in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application.

As only allowable subject matter is pending in the present application, the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

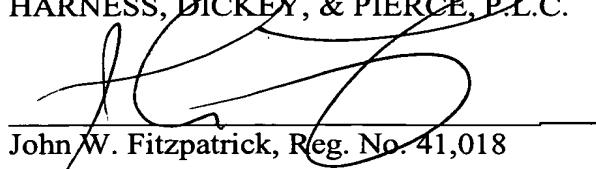
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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